

## Message Text

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SUBJ: 70TH FAO COUNCIL: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AD INTERIM OF WFP, MR. T.C.M. ROBINSON, INTRODUCED THE ITEM, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO POLICIES (CFA), RECALLING THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM, AND ITS EXPANSION SINCE 1975. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE 1977/78 TARGET OF \$750 MILLION, TOWARDS WHICH 76 PERCENT HAS ALREADY BEEN PLEDGED, WILL BE EXCEEDED, AS WAS THE CASE FOR THE PREVIOUS BIENNIUM WHEN \$668 MILLION WAS CONTRIBUTED AGAINST THE \$400 MILLION TARGET. OVER 50 OF THE 79 PROJECTS APPROVED THIS YEAR HWD BEEN EARMARKED FOR LDC'S AND MSA'S; PROJECTS FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FIGURE IMPORTANTLY. VITAMIN A ENRICHMENT OF DIRED SKILLED MILK WAS CITED AS A MAJOR INNOVATION OF WFP, THE INTRO- DUCION OF WHICH PREDATED THE INTEREST IN NUTRITION WHICH IS NOW BEING EMPHASIZED IN FOOD AID PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE. THE ONLY NEGATIVE NOTE SOUNDED CONCERNED THE SHORTFALL IN THE 500,000 TON EMERGENCY RESERVE. THE EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT SEVERAL AMENDMENTS WOULD BE PROPOSED TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CFA, IN THE SPRING OF 1977.

2. THERE WERE 17 INTERVENTIONS DURING THE DEBATE ON THIS AGENDA ITEM. THZ GENERAL TONE WAS EXTREMELY FAVORABLE TO WFP: THE CANADIAN DELEGATION REFERRED TO THE PROGRAM AS ACTION- ORIENTED; INDIA AND FINLAND LAUDED THE PROGRAM'S CONCENTRATION ON THE LDC'S AND MSA'S; BENEFICIARIES SUCH AS LEBANON, GIUNEA AND EGYPT CITED THE EMERGENCY AID RECEIVED. BRAZIL NOTED

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROGRAM AS A TOOL OF DEVELOPMENT.

SEVERAL SPEAKERS SUGGESTED THAT INCREASED ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES.

3. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT CASH CONTRIBUTIONS ENABLE WFP TO OPERATE WITH A GREATER MARGIN OF FLEXIBILITY. SAUDI ARABIA'S \$50 MILLION CONTRIBUTION IN THE CURRENT BIENNIUM WAS CITED IN PARTICULAR AS HAVING MADE THE PROGRAM MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE SINCE THE FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR FOOD PURCHASES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUCH ACTION WAS ALSO REGARDED AS A STIMULANT TO FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE LDC'S, AND WFP WAS ENCOURAGED TO INCREASE SUCH TRANSACTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DANGER OF SOME RECIPIENTS BECOMING TOO DEPENDENT ON FOOD AID WAS ALSO NOTED.

4. SEVERAL OF THE LDC'S EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT RESERVE STOCKS WOULD BE BUILT UP, PARTICULARLY TO ENABLE WFP TO RESPOND IN CASES OF EMERGENCY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE GUINEAN DELEGATE, THE WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MENTIONED THE ASSISTANCE THAT IS BEING PROVIDED TO VIETNAM AND LAOS. BEAUDRY

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